

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. For use in transferring image data between a removable digital memory module and a user's computer, a portable, hand-held, digital camera picture image data transfer and repository device embodied in a housing connectable to both a removable memory module and a user's notebook or desktop computer and which is of a size which can be held in a user's palm, said repository device comprising:

a housing of a size to be held in the palm of a user's hand and including a memory input port sized to receive a digital camera memory module and including an output port for coupling said portable repository device to a user's computer;

a mass storage device operatively coupled to receive and store picture image data from a digital camera memory module inserted into said memory input port and for storing said image data, said mass storage device being accessible for downloading said image data to a user's computer;

a user operable control key for initiating a copy operation for copying image data stored in said memory module to said mass storage device;

processing circuitry for controlling the transfer of data stored in said digital camera module inserted into said memory input port to said mass storage device, said processing circuitry being operable responsive to a user's actuation of said

control key to initiate a copy operation and to verify that the copy operation has been correctly performed; and

an output interface, coupled to said mass storage device, for use in transferring image data stored in said mass storage device to said user's computer, said output interface being compatible with an interface of said user's computer.

2. A portable, hand-held, digital camera picture image data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said

processing circuitry is operable to reformat a digital camera memory module inserted into said memory input port to place said digital camera memory module into a state where it can be reused in the user's digital camera for picture capture without erasing desired picture image data.

3. A portable, hand-held, digital camera picture image data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said output interface includes a USB interface operatively coupled to said mass storage for transferring picture image data to a user's computer.

4. A portable, hand-held, digital camera picture image data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said processing circuitry in determining that the copy operation has been correctly performed is operable to

determine whether the data stored in the memory module conforms with a standard format.

5. A portable, hand-held, digital camera picture image data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 1, further including:

a display device for displaying picture image data.

6. A portable, hand-held, digital camera picture image data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 1, further including a display device for displaying video image data; wherein said data depository device is operable to receive digital image data from a user's computer.

10. A portable, hand-held, digital camera picture image data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said mass storage device is removable.

11. For use in transferring data between a removable flash memory module and a user's computer, a portable, hand-held, general purpose, digital data transfer and repository device embodied in a housing connectable to both a removable memory module and a user's notebook or desktop computer and which is of a size which can be held in a user's palm, said repository device comprising:

a housing of a size to be held in the palm of a user's hand and including a memory insertion section for receiving a digital memory module having at least one digital data structure having a predetermined name, and including an output port for coupling said portable repository device to a user's computer,

a mass storage device contained within said hand-held housing and operatively coupled to receive and store digital data from said digital memory module, said mass storage device being accessible for data transfer between said portable repository device and a user's computer;

at least one user operable key for permitting a user to change the name of said at least one digital data structure;

processing circuitry contained within said hand-held housing for controlling the transfer of data stored in said digital memory module to said mass storage device, said processing circuitry being operable in response to a user's actuation of said at least one user operable key to change the name of said digital data structure;

a display device for displaying data relating to the contents of said digital memory module; and

an output interface, coupled to said mass storage device, for use in transferring data between said mass storage device and said user's computer, said output interface being compatible with an interface of said user's computer.

12. A portable, hand-held, digital data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 11, wherein said at least one user operable key permits a user to associate text information with an identified image.

13. A portable, hand-held, digital data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 11, wherein said digital data structure is a file and the user is able to change the name of a file.

14. A portable, hand-held, digital data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 11, wherein said at least one user operable key permits a user to enter data for creating a directory.

15. A portable, hand-held, digital data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 11, wherein said at least one user operable key permits a user to enter data indicative of where data is to be moved.

16. A portable, hand-held, digital data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 11, further including a display device for displaying video image data; wherein said data depository device is operable to receive digital image data from a user's computer.

17. A portable, hand-held, digital data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 11, wherein said digital memory module stores audio data.

18. A portable, hand-held, digital data transfer and repository device in accordance with claim 11, wherein said processing circuitry is operable to reformat a memory module inserted into one of the memory input ports to place the memory module into a state where it can be reused.